Introduction:
The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy- MIFTAH and in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) work on the promotion of community dialogue to influence public policy in support of women protection from Gender Based Violence (GBV). This project is part of MIFTAH’s continued work on promoting gender equality and equity including protection against gender-based violence within a policy framework through; addressing recommendations at both policy and legislative level, fostering dialogue on addressing sexual violence related to absence of national protection policies and services for survivors of sexual violence and crimes, mobilizing religious and community leaders for promoting protection of sexual and reproductive health rights including protection from gender based violence, and enhancing the role of media in public campaigning on gender based violence and sexual violence.

Project Objectives:
This project: “Gender equality and Women’s Empowerment” aims at supporting the development of policies and measures that need to be taken in order to reduce violence and its spread within Palestinian society and provide empowerment opportunities for women victims of GBV. This is envisioned to take place through working on three main objectives:

- Supporting national efforts in enhancing the legal environment for the realization of women protection Reduce vulnerability of GBV survivors through vocational and life skills activities

- Supporting the NGO Forum to Combat Violence against Women- Al Muntada in its advocacy efforts
In order to achieve these objectives, MIFTAH is implementing the following main activities:

- Reviewing the National Referral System and providing policy proposals for its enhancement.
- Providing policy recommendations on implementation mechanisms of the Family Protection Bill through campaign, public hearing sessions, policy meetings.
- Preparing a factsheet on Women and Vocational Training - availability, challenges and gaps; to contribute in advocating for policy reforms and programs development to facilitate women and girls enroll in the vocational training.
- Carrying out an individual needs assessment for 100 women survivors of GBV from Qalqilya, Jenin, Nablus and Tulkarem to stand on their individual needs and suggest means of support and protection.
- Conducting vocational and life skills trainings for women survivors of GBV to contribute in enhancing women economic empowerment and participation.
- Supporting 50 women survivors of GBV with income generating projects to contribute in building their self-esteem and enhance their role and activism within the society.

- Enhancing the IMS system of Al Muntada

- Supporting Al Muntada in its “100-day campaign” to advocate for ratifying the Family Protection Bill and ensuring the appropriate enforcement of the law in national strategies and plans.